

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 174082
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174082

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, ICJ, BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN CANDIDACY FOR INTERNATIONAL COURT OF
JUSTICE

REF: (A) BRASILIA 5162; (B) STATE 67709

1. I NOTE WITH CONCERN YOUR COMMENT IN REFTEL A THAT
BRAZIL APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE THIS CANDIDACY A
TEST CASE. REFTEL INDICATES THAT BRAZILIANS HAVE NOT
ASKED FOR A COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT FROM THE US AT THIS
TIME. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO LINDENBERG THAT WE ARE
AWARE OF THE OUTSTANDING QUALIFICATIONS OF AMB. SETTE
CAMARA, AND THAT REPORTS FROM COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE WORKED
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PAGE 02 STATE 174082

WITH HIM CONFIRM THAT HE IS VERY WELL QUALIFIED FOR
ELECTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. LINDENBERG
SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE CLEAR THAT OUR POSITION IS NOT SIMPLY
ONE OF NOT COMMITTING OURSELVES AT AN EARLY POINT; AS WE
TOLD THE BRAZILIANS THIS SPRING (REFTEL B), WE CUSTOMARILY
AWAIT RECOMMENDATIONS OF REGIONAL GROUPS BEFORE DECIDING
WHAT CANDIDATE TO SUPPORT. IN PRESENT CASE, WHILE WE HAVE

HIGHEST REGARD FOR SETTE CAMARA, WE CANNOT IGNORE FACT
THAT MEXICANS HAVE ALSO NOMINATED A CANDIDATE, ANTONIO
GOMEZ ROBLEDO.

2. OUR RELATIONS WITH BOTH BRAZIL AND MEXICO ARE EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT TO THE US. IT IS FOR JUST SUCH A REASON THAT WE
WISH TO FOLLOW OUR PRACTICE OF AWAITING A REGIONAL GROUP
ENDORSEMENT. VANCE

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